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ABSTRACT

In spring 1988, the University of Nevada (UN) conducted a survey to determine the postsecondary plans of the state's high school seniors. Questionnaires were administered in class, requesting information on demographic characteristics, evaluation of high school experiences, work experience, postsecondary plans, factors affecting college choice, and impressions of the UN system. Study findings, based on responses from 6,760 of the total population of 10,588 seniors, included the following: (1) 61% of the seniors planned to enroll in a postsecondary educational program in the year following graduation, and an additional 22% planned to continue their education at some future time; (2) of the students planning to continue their education, 62% were interested in attending a four-year college and 38% were interested in a two-year institution; (3) 35% of the college-bound students planned to attend an out-of-state institution; (4) 76% of the respondents had been employed during their senior year in high school; (5) 85% planned to work to pay for their college education, 78% expected their parents or other relatives to provide financial assistance, and 66% expected assistance from grants, scholarships, or loans; and (6) 73% had made the decision to continue their education before their senior year. The survey instrument is appended. (AAZC)

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POSTSECONDARY PLANS OF NEVADA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, 1988

A Report on the 1988 Statewide Survey of Nevada High School Seniors

The University of Nevada System
Office of the Chancellor
Office of Academic Affairs

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of Nevada System Chancellor's Office administered the second biennial high school survey to the entire population of 10,588 Nevada high school seniors during the spring of 1988. Sixty-four percent of these surveys, 6,760, were returned to the Office of Academic Affairs where results were compiled and analyzed. Highlights of the resulting report, Postsecondary Plans of Nevada High School Seniors, 1988, include:

Postsecondary Educational Plans	· 61% of survey respondents, 2% more than in 1986, intend to enroll in a postsecondary educational program in the year following their graduation.
	· 83% of survey respondents intend to continue their education sometime in the future. 63% of these respondents, 5% more than in 1986, intend to pursue a two- or four-year degree program. 12% intend to complete a vocational/ technical program, and 8% intend to take job-related or self-improvement courses.
Nevada Attendance	· 65% of students planning to continue their education plan to do so in Nevada, 8% more than planned to stay in Nevada in 1986.
Prefer Public Institution	· 64% of students planning to continue their education prefer to attend a public institution, 62% prefer a four-year college, 38% prefer a two-year college.
Out-Of-State Attendance	· 28% of students planning to attend a community college plan to attend an out-of-state community college.
	· 40% of students planning to attend a four-year college plan to attend an out-of-state college.
	· A total of 2,685 Nevada students, 35%, plan to attend a postsecondary institution out of state.

Student Financial Support	· 76% of respondents worked at a job during their senior year in high school.
	· 85% plan to work to help fund their postsecondary education, 78% expect parents or other relatives to help fund their education, and 66% expect assistance from grants, scholarships, or loans.
Early Decision	· Students who intend to continue their education after high school make that decision early; 73% before their senior year in high school.
College Choice Factors	· Students ranked the availability of a particular program of study and the academic reputation of an institution as the two factors most significant in determining their choice of college.
Positive Impressions	· Seniors have a positive impression of UNS campuses. Campuses were ranked on cost of attending, availabilty of financial aid, academic programs, and reputation.
Satisfied with High School Experience	· Most Nevada high school seniors are satisfied with their overall high school experience and believe their high school prepared them well for their intended postsecondary plans.

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POSTSECONDARY PLANS OF NEVADA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, 1988

A Report on the 1988 Statewide Survey

of

Nevada High School Seniors

This study, first conducted in 1986 by the University of Nevada System Chancellor's Office, is the second in a series of biennial surveys of the entire population of Nevada high school seniors. The survey is designed to provide secondary and postsecondary educational planners information about Nevada high school seniors and their postsecondary plans.

Based on survey findings, this report provides information on the demographic characteristics of 1988 seniors, their high school experiences including their work experiences, their plans for the year following graduation, their postsecondary educational plans, factors important in their choice of a postsecondary institution, and their impressions of the University of Nevada System campuses. The 1988 survey findings are compared to 1986 findings, and national data when available. Finally, the implications of the survey findings for the University of Nevada System are discussed.

METHODOLOGY

This study is the second in a series of biennial surveys of the entire population of Nevada high school seniors. The survey questionnaire consisted of thirty-nine questions that addressed six areas: demographic characteristics of Nevada high school seniors (eight questions); evaluation of high school experiences (four questions); work experience (three questions); postsecondary plans (twelve questions); factors important to the choice of a college or other postsecondary institution (seven questions); and impressions of the University of Nevada System (five questions).

The questionnaire, with the number of responses to each question, is included in this report as Appendix A. This questionnaire is essentially the same as the questionnaire used in the 1986 survey of Nevada high school seniors[1]. The three questions regarding the work experience of Nevada high school students (numbers 13, 14, and 15) were added to the 1988 survey at the request of the Nevada State Department of Education.

Prior to the distribution of the questionnaire, the superintendent of public instruction contacted each district

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[1] Postsecondary Plans of Nevada High School Seniors: A Report of the 1986 Statewide Survey of Nevada High School Seniors. University of Nevada System, Office of Academic Affairs, October, 1986.

superintendent, and each high school principal, to request their participation in the study. Following this notification, survey forms were mailed directly to each of the 58 Nevada high schools, including all public and private high schools. Each school was sent one form for each anticipated graduate. The number of graduates was estimated using figures provided by the State Department of Education and was later confirmed by contacting individual schools.

Each school was asked to administer the survey to all seniors between April 1 and May 30, 1988. The questionnaire could easily be given in one class period; the suggested time was twenty-five minutes. The classroom instructor was provided with a sheet of directions to read to the students (see Appendix B). Students were instructed to select only one answer for each item and to leave an item blank if they did not know the answer. Consequently, response rates can vary for each question. All students were instructed to answer the first eighteen questions concerning demographics, postsecondary plans, work experience, and opinions about high school. Students who did not expect to pursue some form of postsecondary education (approximately 6% of the population; see Question 18, Appendix A) were instructed not to answer the final twenty-one questions, which concern factors influencing choice of college and impressions of the University of Nevada System campuses. Therefore, any discussion in this study of questions 19 through 39 is based only on the replies of

students who plan to pursue some form of postsecondary education.

Students' replies were recorded on standard scantron sheets and returned to the University of Nevada System, Office of Academic Affairs. High schools that did not return forms by May 16, or had a particularly low return rate (less than 60%), were called and questioned about the administration of the survey. Personnel in the high schools indicated that they attempted to administer the questionnaire to all seniors rather than any particular subgroup (e.g. college bound seniors) and that the questionnaire was usually administered during government classes.

All completed forms were scanned mechanically and summary statistics were computed. This report is the result of the analysis of the responses of over 6,700 high school seniors.

REPORT OF FINDINGS

SURVEY RESPONSE

The Chancellor's Office surveyed the entire population of high school seniors and a large number, 6,760, of completed forms were returned to the Office of Academic Affairs. This represents 64% of the 10,588 registered seniors reported in April 1988 by the State Department of Education and verified with each of the high schools. This response rate is greater than the 60% rate obtained in the 1986 survey and is an increase of 1,079 returned forms. Response rates were calculated for each school district and are reported in Table A. District response rates varied from a high of 88% in Carson City School District and Humboldt County School District to a low of 21% in Douglas County School District. This low response rate resulted when one of the two high schools in Douglas County declined to participate in the survey. The response rate for the Douglas County high school that did participate was 77%.

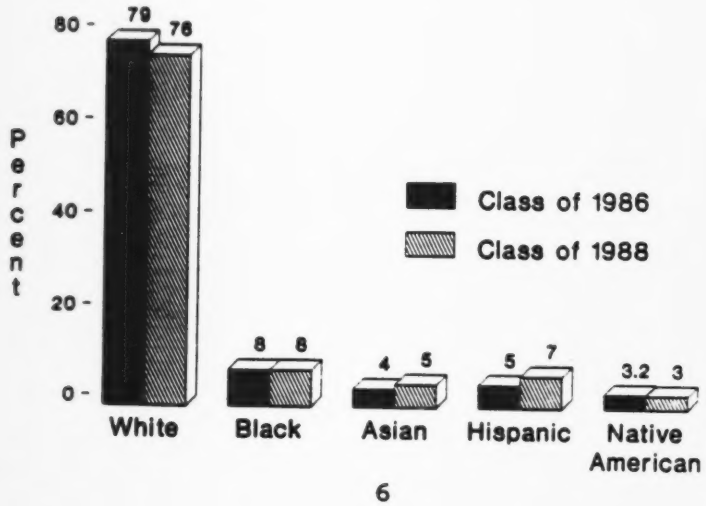
TABLE A
Response Rate by District

District	Percent Response	District	Percent Response
Carson	88	Lincoln	85
Churchill	54	Lyon	65
Clark	64	Mineral	79
Douglas	21	Nye	71
Elko	78	Pershing	80
Eureka	81	Storey	86
Humboldt	88	Washoe	58
Lander	78	White Pine	84

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The demographic characteristics of the 1988 seniors were similar to those of the 1986 seniors. Information was collected about students' age, gender, race/ethnic identification, family income, and highest level of parents' education. Ninety-four percent of the respondents were seventeen or eighteen years of age, 49% were male, 50% female, and 1% did not specify gender. The race/ethnic composition of the 1988 respondents did vary somewhat from the 1986 respondents, indicating a growing number of minority students in Nevada's school-age population. In 1986, 79% of the respondents were White, in 1988 that proportion had decreased to 76%. The proportion of Asian students increased from 4% in 1986 to 5% in 1988, while the proportion of Hispanic students increased from 5% to 7%. The proportion of Black students remained constant at 8%, and the proportion Native American students decreased slightly from 3.2% to 3%.

FIGURE 1
Ethnic Groups of Nevada High School Seniors



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These data are consistent with 1987-88 Student Ethnic Distribution Figures for Nevada Elementary and Secondary Schools released by the Nevada Department of Education, however, the survey of high school seniors has a slightly higher proportion of Asian and Native American students and a slightly lower proportion of White, Black, and Hispanic students.

Table B
Ethnic Distribution

Ethnic Group	High School Survey Figures	Nevada Dept. of Ed. Figures
White	76%	77%
Black	8%	10%
Hispanic	7%	8%
Asian	5%	3%
Native American	3%	2%

As expected, reported levels of family income increased slightly over the two-year span between surveys. Fifty-six percent of 1988 respondents reported family incomes over $26,000 in contrast to 51% in 1986. Twenty-one percent reported family income of less than $26,000 per year and 23% were unaware of their level of family income.

Students in 1986 and 1988 reported similar levels of parents' education. Respondents indicated that 26% of fathers and 19% of mothers had graduated from college, 38% of fathers and 45% of mothers had not received any college education, and 11% of

fathers and 12% of mothers did not graduate from high school.

HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

The majority (83%) of Nevada high school seniors were satisfied with their overall high school experience. Most (75%) thought that their high school prepared them adequately, or more than adequately, for what they wanted to do after high school. When asked to rate various aspects of their high school experience, 95% rated their classroom instruction average or better, and 73% rated their school as average or better in providing them with assistance in career education and guidance. These responses were similar to those of the 1986 seniors, however in 1988, fewer seniors believed their high school prepared them adequately, or more than adequately, for their plans after high school (75% vs 79%) and fewer seniors rated their high school as average or better in providing them assistance in career education and guidance (73% vs 79%).

Thirty-nine percent of responding students described their high school program of study as college preparatory, followed by a general program (31%), a vocational program (13%), a business program (11%), and other program (4%). As in 1986, most respondents described themselves as "B" (46%) or "C" (37%) students, 14% described themselves as "A" students, and 3% as "D" or "F" students.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Three questions regarding the work experience of Nevada seniors were added to the 1988 survey at the request of the Nevada Department of Education. Seventy-six percent of the survey respondents worked at a job during their senior year; 7% worked less than 10 hours a week, 23% worked 11-20 hours a week, 27% worked 21-30 hours a week, and 18% worked more than 30 hours a week. Forty-five percent of the seniors who reported working, indicated they worked because they needed the money earned, 36% worked because they wanted the money earned, 11% worked to gain experience, and 8% worked for other reasons. Students' reasons for working compared to the number of hours they worked are presented below.

TABLE C
Number of Hours Worked by
Reason for Working

Number of Hours Worked Per Week	Reason for Working (%)			
	Wanted Money	Needed Money	Wanted Experience	Other
Less Than 10	7.2%	10.4%	12.9%	11.3%
11 to 20	28.2%	33.6%	31.4%	23.3%
21 to 30	38.8%	34.7%	32.5%	29.7%
More Than 30	25.2%	20.3%	20.8%	32.9%

(Column totals in Tables will not equal 100% because not all students answered both relevant questions.)

Of those who worked, 30% said they would have taken additional elective courses their senior year if they had not been working. Students' work experience did not appear to vary greatly by gender, level of family income, or intended postsecondary plans.

TABLE D
Number of Hours Worked by Gender

Number of Hours Worked Per Week	Male	Female
None	24.9%	23.1%
Less Than 10	6.8%	7.6%
11 to 20	21.1%	25.4%
21 to 30	26.1%	28.8%
More Than 30	21.1%	15.1%

TABLE E
Number of Hours Worked by Level of Family Income

Number of Hours Worked Per Week	Level of Family Income (x $1000)				
	Under 15	15-25	26-40	Over 40	Don't Know
None	27.1%	23.3%	22.7%	23.7%	25.8%
Less Than 10	9.4%	6.4%	7.3%	7.5%	6.3%
11 to 20	21.7%	23.1%	22.4%	26.4%	20.6%
21 to 30	22.8%	27.8%	29.5%	27.3%	26.3%
More Than 30	19.1%	19.4%	18.2%	15.2%	21.1%

TABLE F
Number of Hours Worked by Next Year Plans

Number of Hours Worked Per Week	Next Year Plans				
	Join Military	Get a Job	Raise a Family	Go to School	Undec.
None	22.5%	27.6%	20.3%	25.2%	16.8%
Less Than 10	5.7%	7.9%	6.8%	7.7%	5.1%
11 to 20	19.0%	18.4%	17.0%	26.1%	19.1%
21 to 30	27.1%	26.2%	23.2%	27.2%	31.5%
More Than 30	25.6%	20.0%	32.8%	13.9%	27.5%

A smaller proportion of minority students reported working than did White students; 78% of White students, 71% of Asian students, 69% of Hispanic students, 66% of Black students, and 61% of Native American students reported working some hours during their senior year.

Students with higher reported grade point averages generally worked less; 78% of "C" students, 76% of "B" students, and 69% of "A" students reported working some hours during their senior year.

FIGURE 2
Hours Worked by
High School Grade Point Average

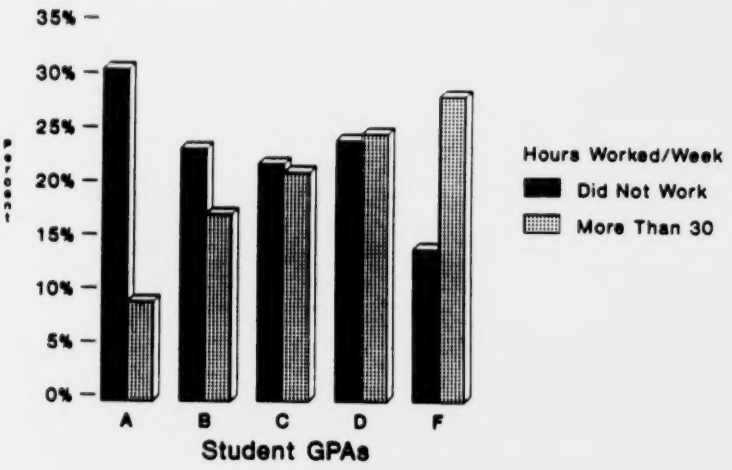


TABLE G
Number of Hours Worked by
High School Grade Point Average

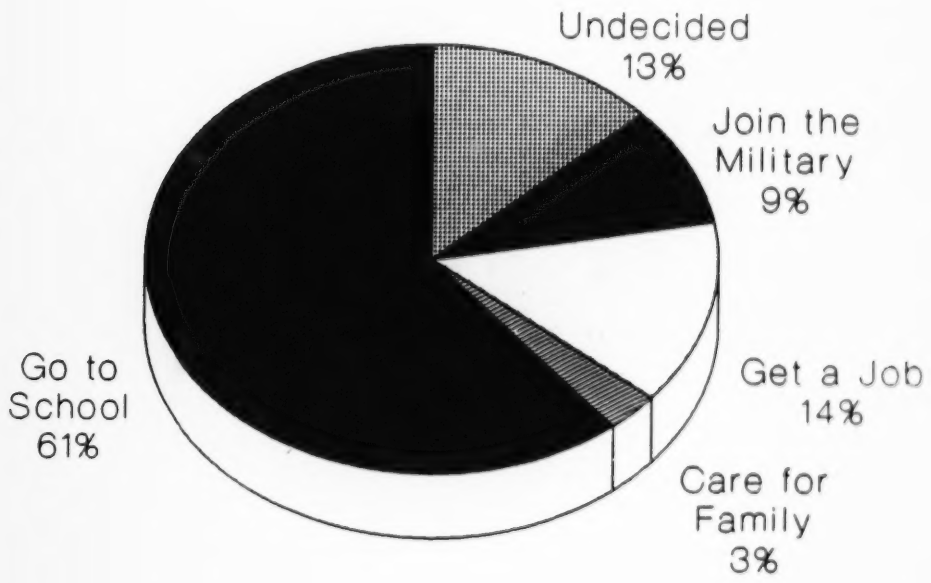
Number of Hours Worked Per Week	High School Grade Point Average				
	A	B	C	D	F
None	30.9%	23.6%	22.2%	24.4%	14.3%
Less Than 10	9.0%	7.5%	6.1%	6.6%	10.7%
11 to 20	27.2%	23.3%	21.7%	22.0%	35.7%
21 to 30	23.5%	28.0%	28.7%	22.0%	10.7%
More Than 30	9.3%	17.5%	21.4%	25.0%	28.6%

POSTSECONDARY PLANS

All students were asked to respond to three general questions about their plans after high school. In an attempt to determine students' immediate plans, they were asked what they

were most likely to be doing, and where they were most likely to be living, for the year following their high school graduation. Sixty-one percent indicated they would most likely go to school, 14% thought they would get a job, 13% were unsure of their plans, 9% planned to join the military, and 3% were likely to care for a home or family. When compared to the 1986 seniors, there was a 2% increase in the number of respondents who indicated immediate plans to attend school, and a 4% decrease in the number who planned to get a job in the year following high school graduation.

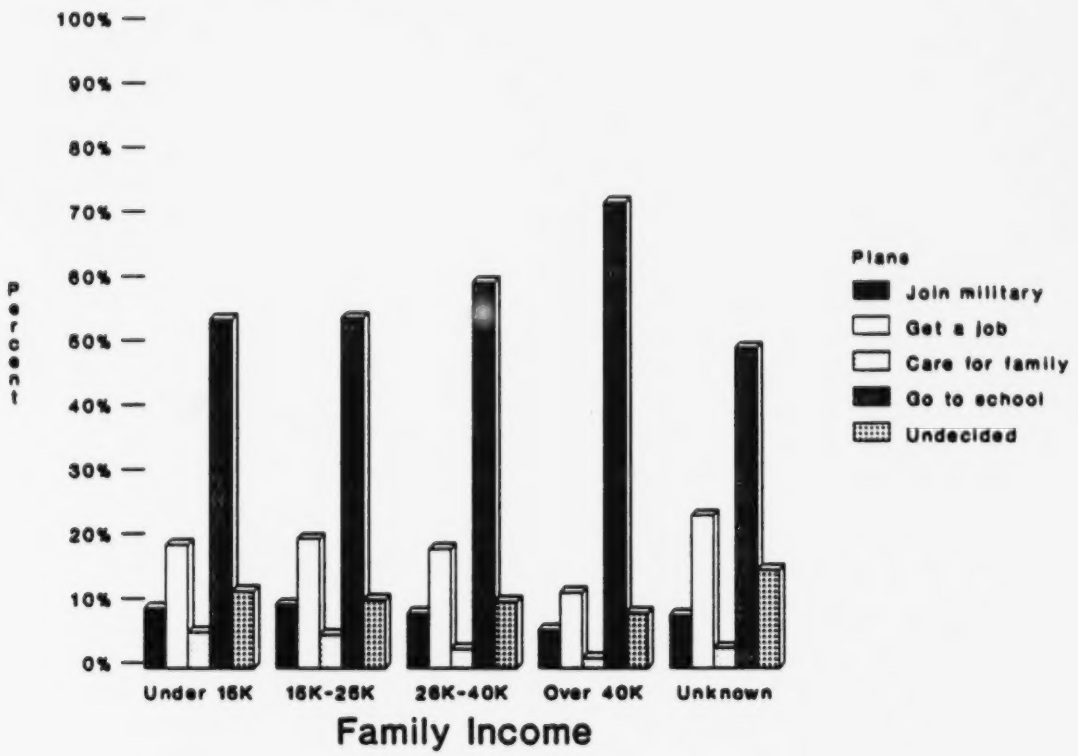
FIGURE 3
Next Year Plans of Nevada High School Seniors



Class of 1988

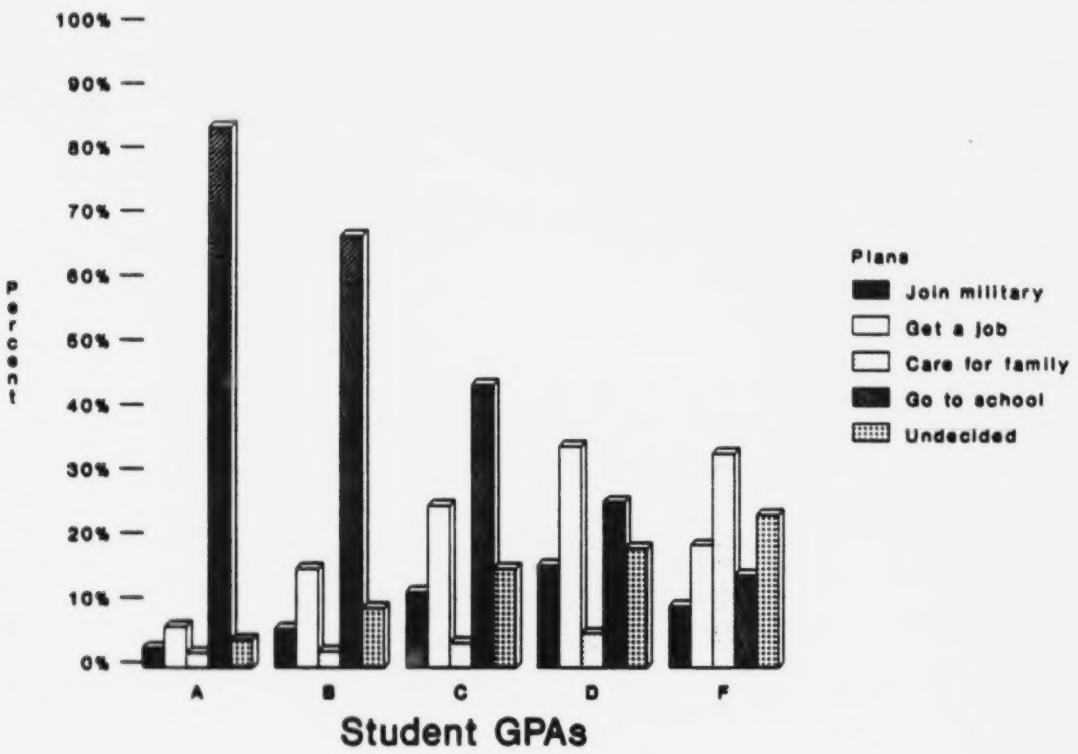
As in 1986, students' immediate postsecondary plans appeared to be related to the level of family income and students' high school grade point average. As family income increased, the proportion of students who intended to go to school in the year following high school graduation also increased. As the level of family income declined, the likelihood that the student would join the military, get a job, care for home or family, or be undecided about next year plans increased. However, regardless of what the parents' level of income, over half the respondents planned to attend school.

FIGURE 4
Next Year Plans by
Level of Family Income



A similar pattern is evident with students' self-reported grade point average (GPA); that is, the higher the GPA, the more likely the student was to attend college; the lower the GPA, the more likely the student was to make other plans. However, 13% of "A" students and 30% of "B" students did not plan to attend school the year after high school. While most of these students indicated other plans, nearly 4% of "A" students and 10% of "B" students were undecided about their postsecondary plans.

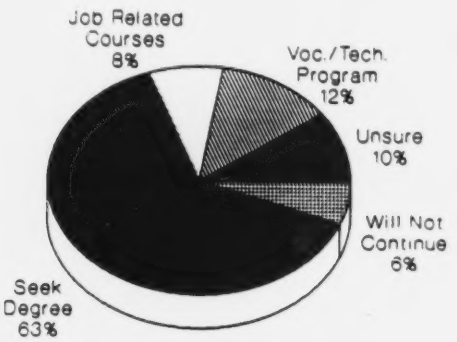
Figure 5
Next Year Plans by
High School Grade Point Average



Most seniors (57%) expected to live in Nevada following high school graduation. An additional 27% expected to live in the western region of the country (over half of these in California), and 14% indicated plans to live in another region.

Finally, all students were asked if they expected to continue their education in any form after high school. Ten percent were unsure of their future educational plans; 12% expected to complete a vocational or technical program; 8% expected to take job-related or self-improvement courses; and 63% expected to attend college in pursuit of a degree sometime in the future. This represented a 5% increase in the number of students planning to attend college over the number with similar plans in the 1986 survey. Only 404 students (6%) in the 1988 survey indicated that they did not expect to continue their education after high school. This was the only group not asked any further questions.

FIGURE 6
Long-term Educational Plans of Nevada High School Seniors



Class of 1988

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POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL PLANS

A comparison of students' long-term educational plans with demographic data revealed several differences between groups of students. Men who answered the survey were less likely than women to attend college to pursue a degree (61% vs 67%); more likely to enter a vocational or technical program (14% vs 11%), or not to continue their education at all (8% vs 4%). Minorities, with the exception of Asian students, were generally underrepresented in the group with plans for a college degree program and overrepresented in the group with plans for a vocational/technical program and in the group not planning to continue their education. Most "A" students (89%) and "B" students (71%) planned to pursue a college degree; in contrast, only 47% of "C" students planned to pursue a college degree. As family income increased, students were more likely to plan to attend college in pursuit of a degree and less likely to pursue postsecondary education for other reasons.

TABLE H
Educational Plans by Level of Family Income

Type of Education Planned	Level of Family Income (x $1000)				
	Under 15	15-25	26-40	Over 40	Don't Know
Job Related/ Self Improv.	13.5%	8.8%	7.5%	5.0%	10.6%
Vocational	12.3%	14.9%	13.2%	8.9%	14.3%
College Degree	56.7%	58.0%	66.1%	76.0%	49.2%
Undecided	10.3%	11.5%	8.7%	6.0%	15.6%
None	7.6%	6.8%	4.5%	4.1%	9.7%

Students who plan to continue their education after high school made that decision early. Forty-eight percent reported making the decision in their freshman year or before, 25% decided in their sophomore or junior year, and 16% decided in their senior year. Six hundred seventy-three students (10%) had still not decided in the last month of their senior year whether or not they would continue their education.

Almost two-thirds of the students who plan to continue their education had taken a college entrance exam. Twenty-five percent had taken both the SAT and the ACT exams, 25% had taken only the ACT exam, and 10% had taken only the SAT exam.

The majority (64%) of Nevada high school seniors who plan to continue their education preferred to attend a public institution rather than a private college or university. Approximately 38% intended to enroll in a two-year or community college, and 62% planned to enroll at a four-year school. Forty percent of the students who plan to attend a community college expected to do so at Clark County Community College, 20% at Truckee Meadows Community College, 6% at Western Nevada Community College, and 5% at Northern Nevada Community College. Over 800 students (28%) indicated that they would most likely attend a community college out of state. Fifty-seven percent of the students who plan to attend a four-year college, intended to do so in Nevada; 32% at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 25% at

University of Nevada-Reno, and 4% at private Nevada colleges. Forty percent of four-year college bound students indicated that they planned to enroll at an out-of-state college. A total of 2,685 high school seniors (35%) indicated plans to leave Nevada to pursue postsecondary education. This represents 8% fewer students than indicated in 1986 that they planned to leave the state. Forty-eight percent of "A" students, 34% of "B" students, and 32% of "C" students intended to leave Nevada.

FIGURE 7
Community College of Choice by
High School Grade Point Average

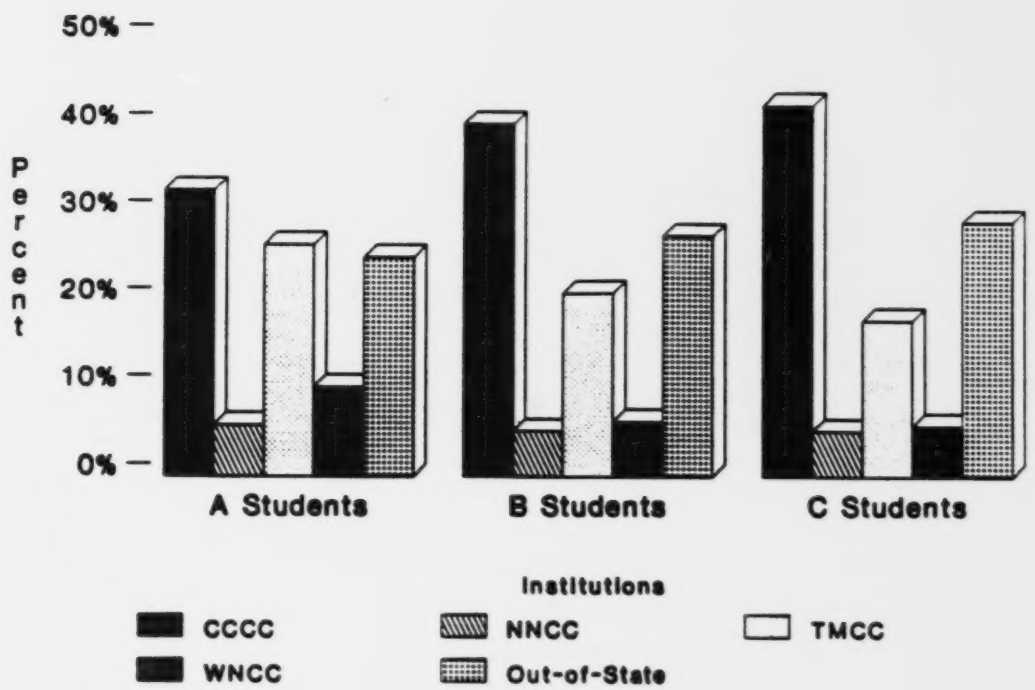
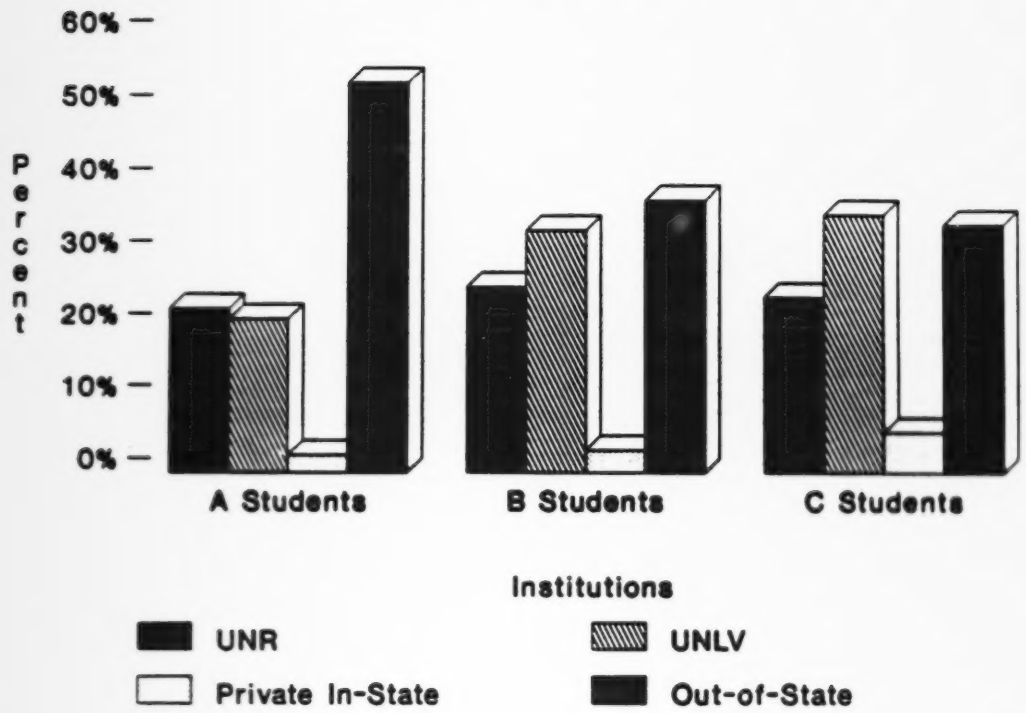


FIGURE 8
University of Choice by
High School Grade Point Average



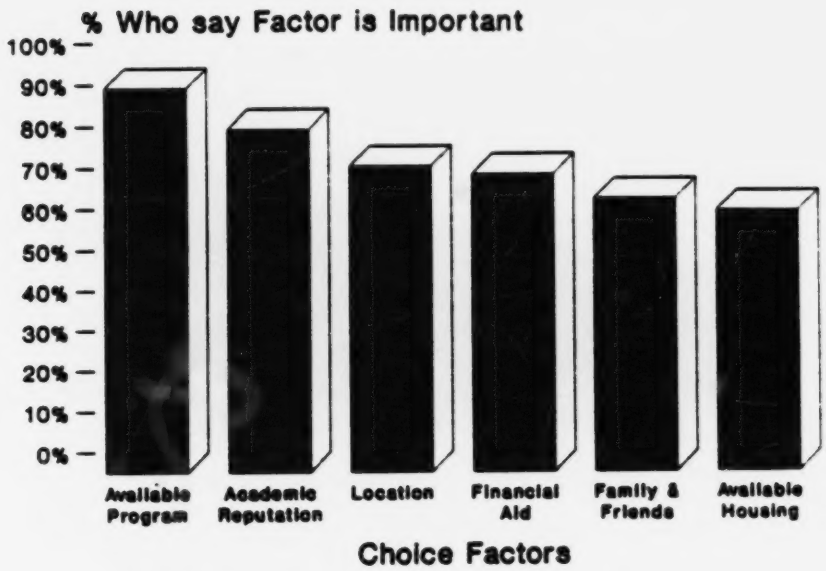
Most students (85%) expected to work to help fund their postsecondary education. Seventy-eight percent expected their parents or other relatives to help fund their education, and 66% expected some assistance from grants, scholarships, or loans.

COLLEGE CHOICE FACTORS

Students rated six college choice factors that may have influenced their selection of a postsecondary institution. Each factor was rated on a scale ranging from "very important" to "not important" or "did not consider". The student ranking of these factors did not vary from 1986 to 1988 surveys. The availability of a particular program of study was considered an

important choice factor for 92% of students, followed by academic reputation of the institution (84%), geographic location (75%), availability of financial aid or scholarships (73%), influence of family and friends (67%), and finally type of housing available (64%).

FIGURE 9
Factors Influencing Choice of Institution



IMPRESSIONS OF UNS

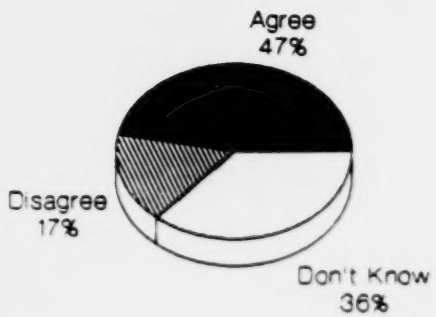
Students were asked to indicate their level of agreement with five statements about University of Nevada System (UNS) campuses. In general, most seniors reported positive impressions of UNS campuses. Sixty-nine percent, up from 66% in 1986, thought the cost of attending a UNS institution was reasonable, 59% thought UNS campuses had high quality academic programs, and 55% thought at least one campus had a high quality program in their intended subject area. Forty-seven percent, down from 51% in 1986, thought sufficient financial aid was available for students who needed assistance. Twenty-six percent thought students must be above average to be admitted to UNR and UNLV.

As in 1986, the proportion of students who responded "don't know" to these statements about the University of Nevada System is informative. Twenty-four percent of responding seniors did not know if UNS campuses had high quality academic programs, 25% did not know if at least one campus had a high quality program in their intended subject area, and 36% did not know if campuses provided sufficient financial aid for students who need assistance.

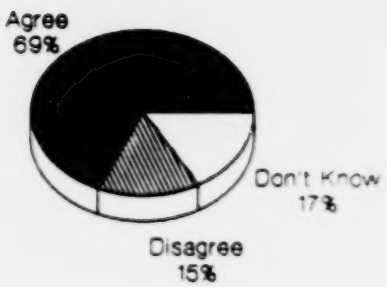
FIGURE 10

Students' Impressions of UNS Institutions

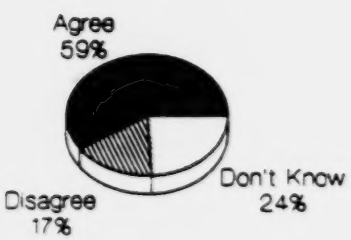
UNS Has Sufficient Financial Aid



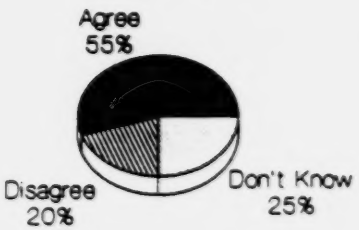
Cost of Attending UNS Is Reasonable



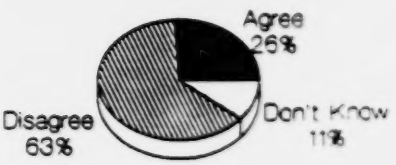
UNS Has High Quality Academic Programs



UNS Has High Quality Program in My Area



Students Must Be Above Average to Attend UNS



Students were asked two questions in order to gain insight into student migration patterns. Forty-seven percent, the same proportion as in 1986, indicated that if all other factors such as cost, academic reputation, and availability of programs of study were equal, they would prefer to attend college in another state. Thirty-two percent would stay in Nevada and 21% were not sure where they preferred to attend. Twenty percent of students who plan to pursue some type of postsecondary education indicated their choice of residence upon completion of their education was Nevada, 42% indicated another state, and 39% were unsure where they would live.

DISCUSSION

A recent study by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) predicts that Nevada will graduate 15,515 high school students in the year 2000, a 52% increase from 1988[2]. When this rate of increase, which is one of the greatest for any state, is considered along with the findings of this 1988 survey--a greater proportion of Nevada high school seniors intend to enroll in school following their graduation; a greater proportion intend to enroll in some form of postsecondary education at some point in the future; and, fewer of these seniors intend to leave the state to pursue these postsecondary plans--recent UNS projections of continued increasing enrollments throughout the University of Nevada System are confirmed.

In 1986, 59% of survey respondents planned to enroll in school the next year; that proportion increased to 61% by 1988. In 1986, 82% of respondents expected to continue their education in some form, at some time. By 1988, 83% expected to continue their education. Of the 1988 seniors who intend to continue their education, 63% planned to attend college and pursue a degree, an increase of 5% over the class of 1986. Respondents'

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[2] High School Graduates: Projections by State, 1986 to 2004. A joint publication of Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, and the College Board.

long-range postsecondary plans were examined by gender, grade point average, and family income. In all cases, more 1988 students intended to pursue a college degree.

FIGURE 11
Percent of Students who Plan to Pursue a College Degree by Gender

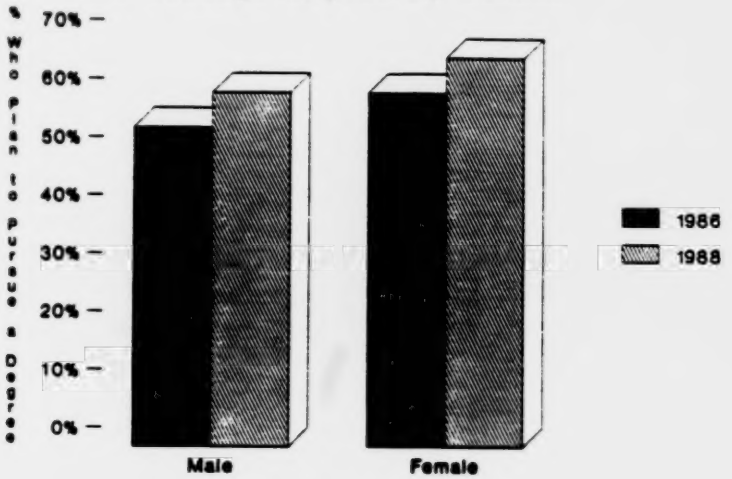


FIGURE 12
Percent of Students Who Plan to Pursue a College Degree by High School GPA

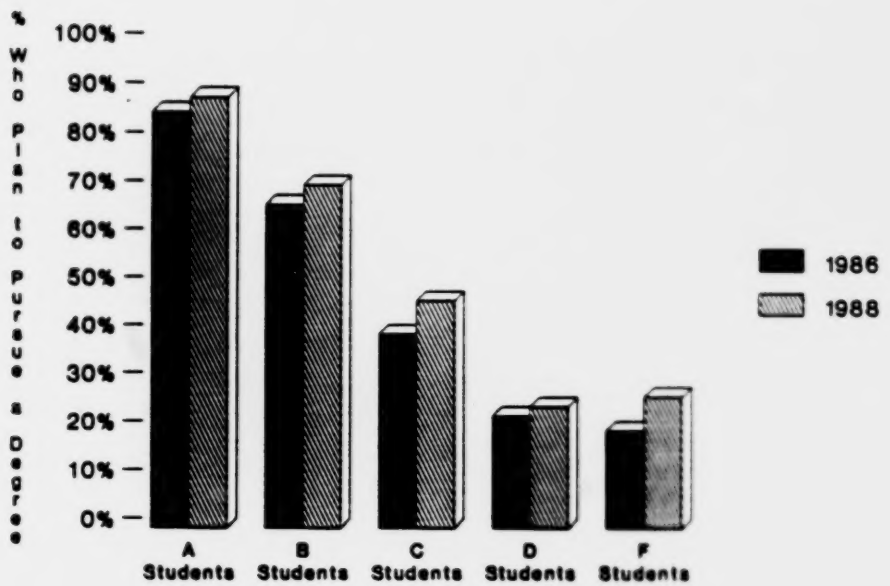
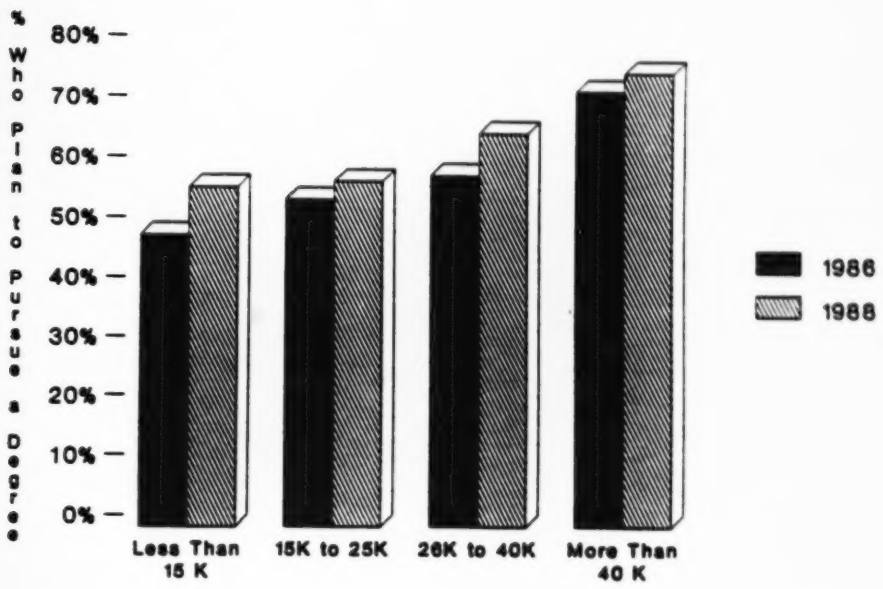


FIGURE 13
Percent of Students Who Plan to Pursue
a College Degree by Level of Family Income



These reported intentions are consistent with available national data. The national longitudinal study of the 1980 graduating class, "High School and Beyond", conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics, reported that two years after graduation, 63% of the 1980 senior class had entered some kind of postsecondary institution. By 1986, six years after graduation, 70% of these students had enrolled in some form of postsecondary education[3].

The 1988 UNS survey reveals that more of Nevada's high school 1988 graduates intended to remain in Nevada to pursue

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[3] High School and Beyond, A Descriptive Summary of 1980 High School Seniors. National Center of Education Statistics.

their postsecondary education. In 1986, 43% of students planning to pursue postsecondary education indicated they would leave the state in this pursuit. By 1988, the proportion of students intending to leave the state for postsecondary education had dropped to 35%. Available national data indicate that fewer students actually enroll out of state than report that intention during their senior year. According to data provided by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), 82% of Nevada's first-time freshmen enrolled in Nevada postsecondary institutions during the fall 1986 semester[4]. The 18% of first-time freshman who did leave the state is less than half the number who indicated in the 1986 UNS survey that they were likely to enroll out of state. In both 1986 and 1988, 28% of students who planned to enroll at a two-year school reported plans to leave the state. According to NCES data, only 10% of 1986 freshman attending a two-year institution actually enrolled out of state. Forty percent of 1988 four-year college bound students indicated plans to enroll out of state, 43% reported this intention in 1986. NCES data indicate that 27% of first-time Nevada freshmen enrolled in a four year institution outside Nevada in 1986.

Not only do more of Nevada's high school students intend to remain in Nevada to pursue their postsecondary education, but more of Nevada's "A" and "B" students intend to remain.

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[4] Residence of First-time Students in Postsecondary Education Institutions, Fall 1986. Center for Education Statistics.

Forty-eight percent of "A" students (vs 52% in 1986) and 34% of "B" students (vs 3[illegible]% in 1986) indicated plans to leave Nevada for postsecondary education. Also, more "A" and "B" students indicated plans to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Northern Nevada Community College, and Truckee Meadows Community College in 1988 than did in 1986.

FIGURE 14
"A" Students Who Plan to Attend
A 4-Year Institution

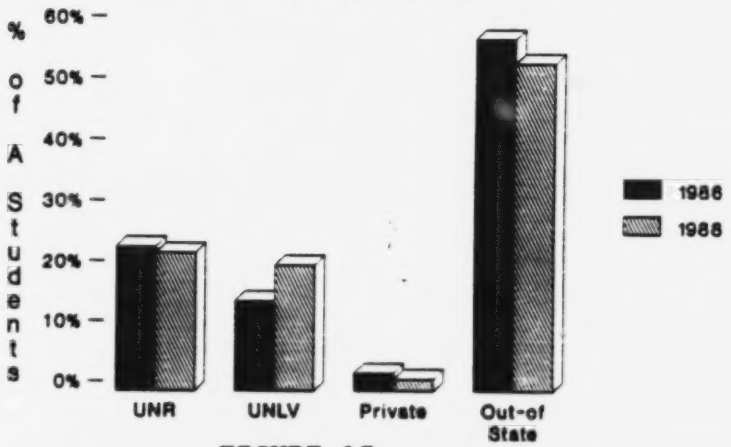


FIGURE 15
"A" Students Who Plan to Attend
A 2-Year Institution

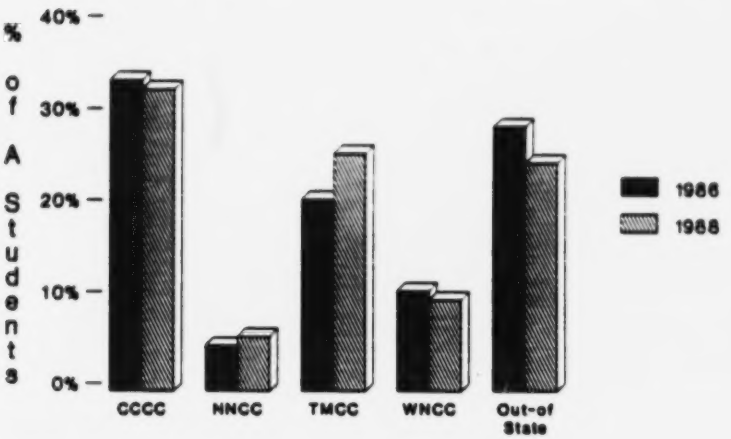


FIGURE 16
"B" Students Who Plan to Attend
A 4-Year Institution

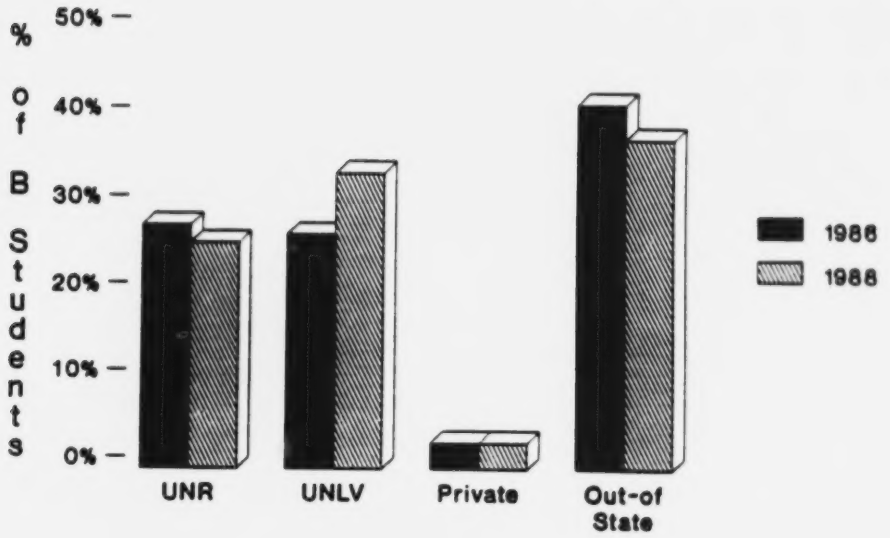
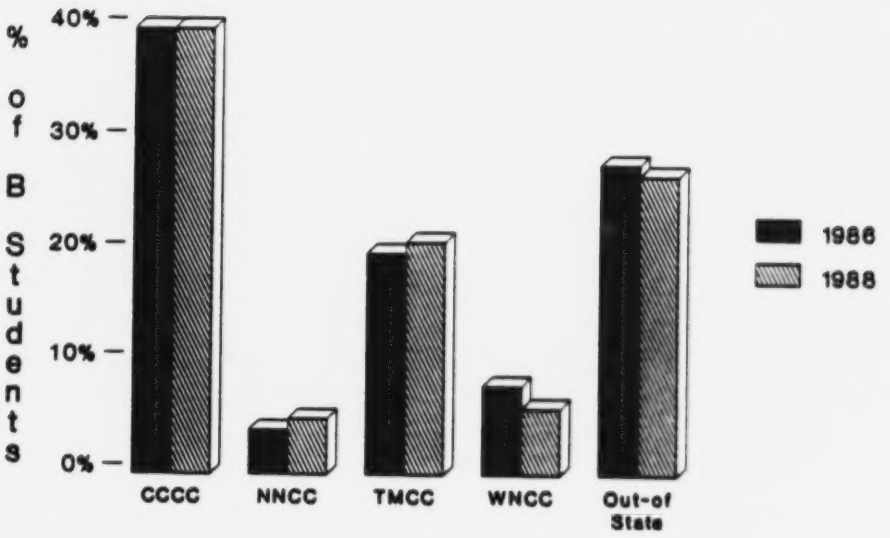


FIGURE 17
"B" Students Who Plan to Attend
A 2-Year Institution



These differences in students' response rates from 1986 to 1988 indicate that Nevada postsecondary institutions are doing a better job of attracting students, and a better job of attracting the "best" students. While, in general, students' impressions of UNS institutions did not vary significantly, on two factors students did have a more positive impression of UNS institutions. Sixty-nine percent of 1988 seniors thought the cost of attending a UNS campus was reasonable, compared to 66% in 1986, and 26% of 1988 respondents believed that students must be above average to be admitted to Nevada universities, up from 23% in 1986. However, as in 1986, there are still many students who responded "don't know" to the section on impressions of UNS institutions. Twenty-four percent of responding seniors who plan to enroll in a postsecondary program did not know if UNS campuses had high quality academic programs, 17% did not know if the cost of attending a UNS campus was reasonable, 36% did not know if UNS campuses provided sufficient financial aid for students who need assistance, 11% did not know if students must be above average to be admitted to Nevada universities, and 25% did not know if at least one campus had a high quality program in their planned subject area. These responses indicate that there is still more work to be done on informing Nevada's college bound high school seniors about Nevada campuses.

As in 1986, the survey also provides important information on Nevada high school seniors who do not intend to enroll in a

postsecondary program. As indicated earlier, regardless of students' gender, high school GPA, or family income, a greater proportion intended to enroll in a postsecondary program in 1988 than in 1986. The same is true when students' plans were examined by race/ethnic designation; however, differences did occur.

A greater proportion of all students in 1988, regardless of race, intended to enroll in a postsecondary program to pursue a degree than did in 1986. The proportion of American Indian students planning to pursue a degree increased 11% from 35% to 46%; the proportion of Asian students increased 10% from 63% to 73%; the proportion of Hispanic students increased 9% from 43% to 52%; the proportion of Black students increased 7% from 46% to 53%; and the proportion of White students increased 5% from 61% to 66%. Despite these increases, Native American, Black, and Hispanic students, as in 1986, still do not intend to pursue a college degree in the same proportion as Asian and White students. While only 11% of Asian students and 12% of White and Hispanic students plan to complete a vocational program, 14% of Black students and 20% of Native American students plan vocational postsecondary educational programs. Greater proportions of Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans also plan to complete job related courses, or plan not to attend any postsecondary educational program than did White or Asian students.

FIGURE 18
Percent of Students Who Plan to Pursue
A College Degree by Ethnic Group

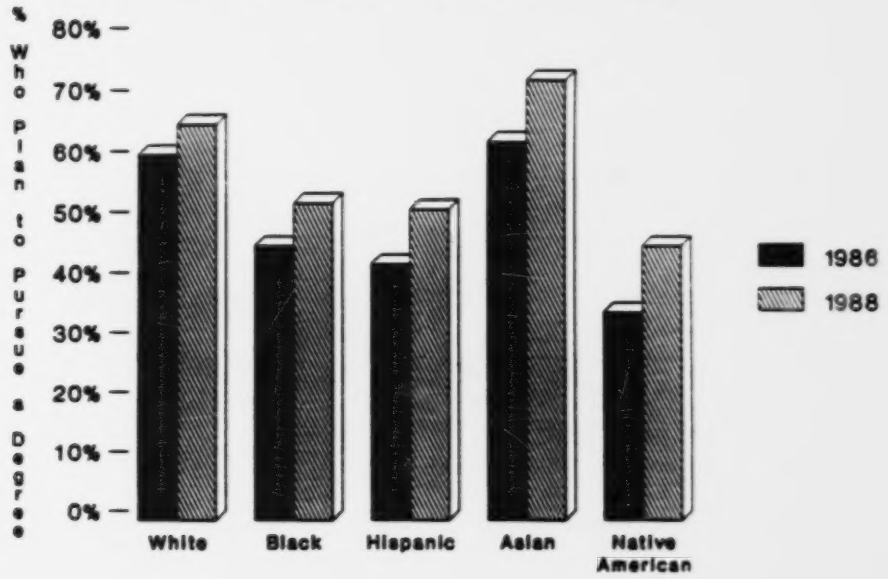
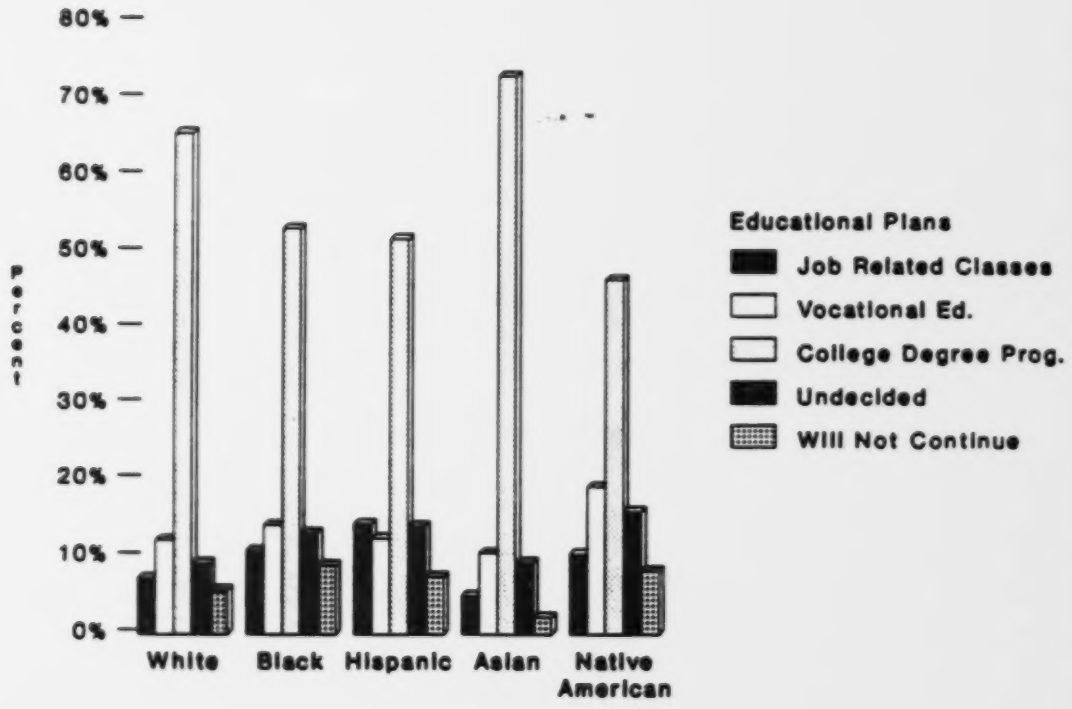


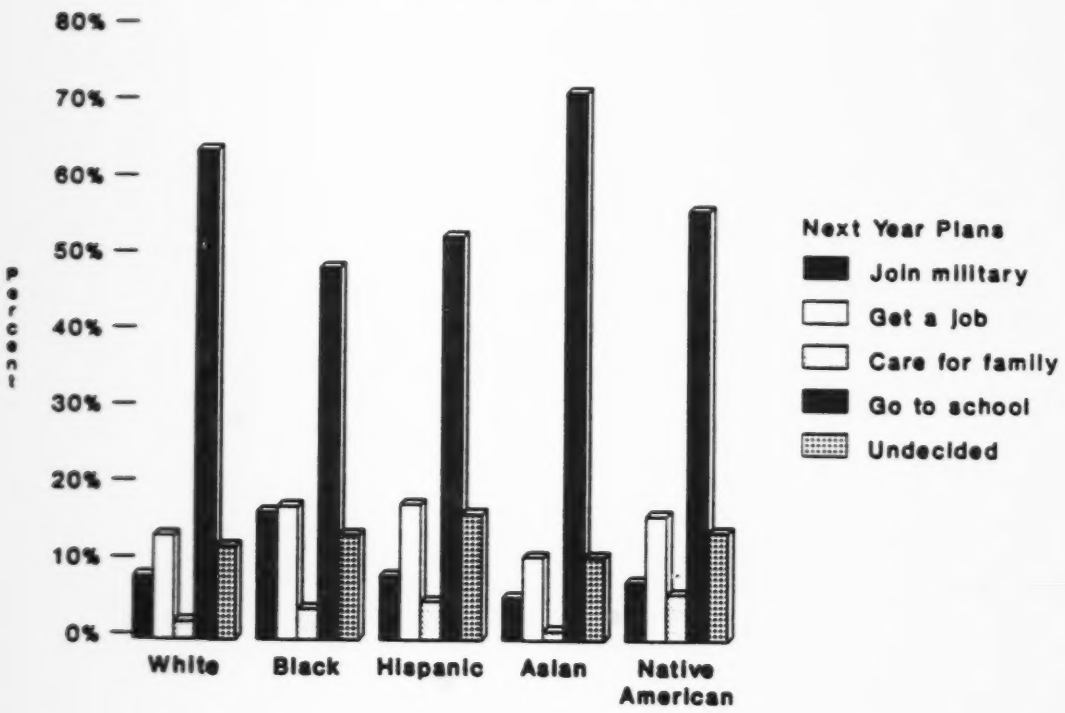
FIGURE 19
Educational Plans by Ethnic Group



These same differences are also evident in students' next year plans. Seventy-two percent of Asian students, 64% of White students, 56% of Native American students, 53% of Hispanic students, and 49% of Black students intend to enroll in school the year following their graduation. Black students are more likely to join the military (17%) or work (17%) than their counterparts, Hispanics are more likely to work (18%) or be undecided (16%) than their counterparts, and Native American students are more likely to work (16%) or care for home and family (6%) than their counterparts.

FIGURE 20

Next Year Plans by Ethnic Group



IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SYSTEM

The 1986 and 1988 surveys of Nevada high school seniors provide educational planners with information on students' intentions and plans concerning their education beyond high school. These findings have several implications for the University of Nevada System.

- The University of Nevada System can expect to serve large numbers of new students. As their numbers increase to a projected level of over 15,000 high school graduates by the year 2,000, it is likely that nearly two-thirds of each graduating class will plan to attend a University of Nevada System campus the year following their graduation.

- The University of Nevada System can expect to serve a greater percentage of Nevada high school graduates. Fewer Nevada students indicate intentions to enroll out of state to complete an educational program than in previous years, and national data indicate that even fewer students actually leave the state for postsecondary education.

- The University of Nevada System can expect to serve a more diverse student body. More students, regardless of their race/ethnic background, their high school performance, their level of family income, or their gender, plan to enroll in

postsecondary programs; and in 1988, a greater percentage of minority students plans to enroll in postsecondary programs than in the past.

- University of Nevada System campuses must continue to seek ways to attract more minority students. The minority population of the state is growing and although a greater proportion of minority students indicated postsecondary educational plans in 1988, with the exception of Asian students, Nevada's minority high school students still do not intend to enroll in postsecondary educational programs in the same proportion as majority students.

- The University of Nevada System can expect to continue to enroll large numbers of part-time, "nontraditional" students. Most of these students have worked during their senior year in high school and most of them intend to continue working to help support their postsecondary education. Students will continue to juggle school, work, and personal lives.

- Students will continue to come to the University of Nevada System campuses with a generally positive impression of these institutions. However, University of Nevada System campuses need to continue to strive to provide potential students with information about their institutions. There

are still large numbers of students who do not have important information about University of Nevada System campuses and their programs.

- University of Nevada System campuses need to continue to provide Nevada students at an early age with information about postsecondary education. Nevada students indicate making decisions about their future educational plans early in their high school career. Students need information on programs of study, financial aid, and housing available on the campuses, all of which ranked as important factors in their choice of an institution.

APPENDIX A

NEVADA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SURVEY[5]

This survey of seniors asks about your impressions of your high school, and also about what you intend to do the first year after your graduation from high school. The survey has been developed by the University of Nevada System in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Education. The results of this survey will be used to better meet the educational needs of Nevada high school graduates.

Please answer questions 1-18. Students planning to continue any organized education, learning, or training beyond high school, should also complete questions 19-39.

Please try to answer all questions. If you cannot answer a question, leave it blank and go on to the next question. Place your answers on the answer sheet provided, not on the survey form. Use a #2 soft lead pencil to fill in the space corresponding to your answer. If you wish to change your response to an item, erase your first mark completely and then blacken the correct space. Select only one response for each question.

Please do not identify yourself on either the survey or the answer sheet. Place only your high school code on the answer sheet. Your individual responses will be kept confidential. Thank you for your help.

1) What is your age?

45	(1%)	A) 16 or under
2,715	(40%)	B) 17
3,665	(54%)	C) 18
312	(5%)	D) 19 or over
23	(0)	Did not respond

2) What is your sex?

3,332	(49%)	A) Male
3,368	(50%)	B) Female
60	(1%)	Did not respond

3) How do you describe yourself? (Choose only one)

569	(8%)	A) Afro-American/Black
187	(3%)	B) American Indian, Alaskan Native
5,139	(76%)	C) Caucasian/White
451	(7%)	D) Hispanic
326	(5%)	E) Asian-American, Oriental, Pacific Islander
88	(1%)	Did not respond

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[5]Figures may not total due to rounding.

4) What is the highest level of education completed by your father or male guardian? (If you do not know, leave blank)

739	(11%)	A)	Less than a high school diploma
1,808	(27%)	B)	A high school diploma
1,927	(29%)	C)	Some college, business, or trade school
803	(12%)	D)	Bachelor's degree
954	(14%)	E)	Graduate or professional degree
529	(8%)		Did not respond

5) What is the highest level of education completed by your mother or female guardian? (If you do not know, leave blank)

800	(12%)	A)	Less than a high school diploma
2,264	(33%)	B)	A high school diploma
2,064	(31%)	C)	Some college, business, or trade school
658	(10%)	D)	Bachelor's degree
621	(9%)	E)	Graduate or professional degree
353	(5%)		Did not respond

6) Which of the following best describes the program of high school courses that you took?

777	(11%)	A)	Business or commercial
884	(13%)	B)	Vocational - occupation
2,649	(39%)	C)	College preparatory
2,107	(31%)	D)	General
299	(4%)	E)	Other
44	(1%)		Did not respond

7) Which of the following is closest to your overall high school grade average?

922	(14%)	A)	A
3,089	(46%)	B)	B
2,519	(37%)	C)	C
171	(3%)	D)	D
28	(0)	E)	F
31	(0)		Did not respond

8) Which category best describes your total family income?

353	(5%)	A)	Under $15,000 per year
1,078	(16%)	B)	Between $15,000 and $25,000 per year
1,751	(26%)	C)	Between $26,000 and $40,000
2,031	(30%)	D)	Over $40,000 per year
1,458	(22%)	E)	Don't know
89	(1%)		Did not respond

9) How do you rate your overall satisfaction with your high school experience?

517	(8%)	A) Exceptionally well satisfied
1,527	(23%)	B) More than adequately satisfied
3,523	(52%)	C) Adequately satisfied
898	(13%)	D) Less than adequately satisfied
273	(4%)	E) Very poorly satisfied
22	(0)	Did not respond

10) How do you rate your classroom instruction?

369	(5%)	A) Outstanding
3,007	(44%)	B) Good, above average
3,037	(45%)	C) Average
295	(4%)	D) Poor
52	(1%)	Did not respond

11) How do you rate your high school at giving you assistance in planning for your future education and/or career?

489	(7%)	A) Outstanding
1,848	(27%)	B) Good, above average
2,612	(39%)	C) Average
1,625	(24%)	D) Poor
162	(2%)	E) Not applicable
24	(0)	Did not respond

12) How well do you think your high school prepared you to do the things you want to do after high school (such as get a job, or go to college)?

403	(6%)	A) Exceptionally
1,343	(20%)	B) More than adequately
3,288	(49%)	C) Adequately
1,275	(19%)	D) Less than adequately
416	(6%)	E) Very poorly
35	(1%)	Did not respond

13) Did you work at a job during your senior year in high school?

1,615	(24%)	A) No
483	(7%)	B) Yes, less than 10 hours a week
1,566	(23%)	C) Yes, 11-20 hours a week
1,847	(27%)	D) Yes, 21-30 hours a week
1,214	(18%)	E) Yes, more than 30 hours a week
35	(1%)	Did not respond

14) If you had not been working at a job, would you have taken additional elective courses this year?

1,403	(21%)	A) This questions doesn't apply to me; I did not work
1,540	(23%)	B) Yes, I would have taken additional elective courses
3,661	(54%)	C) No, I would not have taken additional elective courses
156	(2%)	Did not respond

15) Why did you work at a job during your senior year?

2,317	(34%)	A) You needed the money earned
1,833	(27%)	B) You wanted the money earned
549	(8%)	C) You wanted the work experience
408	(6%)	D) Other
1,551	(23%)	E) I did not work
102	(2%)	Did not respond

16) What are you most likely to do next year?

591	(9%)	A) Join the military
940	(14%)	B) Get a job
178	(3%)	C) Care for a home and/or family
4,136	(61%)	D) Go to school
837	(12%)	E) Undecided
78	(1%)	Did not respond

17) Where are you most likely to be living next year?

3,866	(57%)	A) Nevada
965	(14%)	B) California
697	(10%)	C) Utah, Arizona, Idaho, or Oregon
233	(3%)	D) Another Western state
934	(14%)	E) Other
65	(1%)	Did not respond

18) Do you expect to continue your education after high school?

533	(8%)	A) Yes, I expect to take a few job-related or self-improvement courses
833	(12%)	B) Yes, I expect to complete a vocational or technical program
4,235	(63%)	C) Yes, I expect to attend college and pursue a degree
673	(10%)	D) Not sure
404	(6%)	E) No, I do not expect to continue my education
82	(1%)	Did not respond

If you chose answer "E" to question 18, you have completed the survey. Thank you.

If you chose answer "A", "B", "C", or "D" to question #18, please continue with questions 19-39.

19) Which type of school do you prefer to attend?

3,912	(58%)	A) A public university, college, or community college
829	(12%)	B) A private university, college, or community college
704	(10%)	C) A vocational-technical school
207	(3%)	D) Other
446	(7%)	E) No real preference
662	(10%)	Did not respond

20) When did you decide to continue your education after high school?

2,907	(43%)	A) 9th grade or earlier
583	(9%)	B) 10th grade
893	(13%)	C) 11th grade
962	(14%)	D) 12th grade
721	(11%)	E) Not sure
694	(10%)	Did not respond

21) If you plan to attend a 4-year college or university, which institution will you most likely attend? (If you do not plan to attend a 4-year college or university, leave blank)

1,168	(17%)	A) University of Nevada-Reno
1,517	(22%)	B) University of Nevada, Las Vegas
184	(3%)	C) A private college or university in Nevada
1,877	(28%)	D) A university or college outside of Nevada
2,014	(30%)	Did not respond

22) If you plan to attend a community college, which institution will you most likely attend? (If you do not plan to attend a community college, leave blank)

1,152	(17%)	A) Clark County Community College (Las Vegas area)
149	(2%)	B) Northern Nevada Community College (Elko, Ely area)
566	(8%)	C) Truckee Meadows Community College (Reno, Sparks area)
177	(3%)	D) Western Nevada Community College (Carson City, Fallon area
808	(12%)	E) A community college outside of Nevada
3,908	(58%)	Did not respond

23) Which college entrance exams have you taken?

1,499	(22%)	A) ACT only
574	(8%)	B) SAT only
1,498	(22%)	C) Both Act and SAT
121	(2%)	D) Other entrance exams
2,194	(32%)	E) I have not taken an entrance exam
874	(13%)	Did not respond

24) How much do you anticipate that parents, spouse, or other relatives will contribute to the funding of your education after high school?

2,466	(36%)	A) Major source of funds
2,144	(32%)	B) Minor source of funds
1,324	(20%)	C) Not a source of funds
826	(12%)	Did not respond

25) How much do you anticipate that educational grants, scholarships, or loans will contribute to the funding of your education after high school?

1,700	(25%)	A) Major source of funds
2,269	(34%)	B) Minor source of funds
2,005	(30%)	C) Not a source of funds
786	(12%)	Did not respond

26) How much do you anticipate income from employment (work study, summer employment, etc.) will contribute to the funding of your education after high school?

2,318	(34%)	A) Major source of funds
2,770	(41%)	B) Minor source of funds
880	(13%)	C) Not a source of funds
792	(12%)	Did not respond

Questions 27-32 ask you to rate factors that were important in your selection of a postsecondary institution.

27) How important is the academic reputation of the institution to your selection?

2,159	(32%)	A) Very important
2,841	(42%)	B) Somewhat important
566	(8%)	C) Not important
391	(6%)	D) Did not consider
803	(12%)	Did not respond

28) How important is the availability of a particular program of study to your selection?

3,877	(57%)	A) Very important
1,612	(24%)	B) Somewhat important
236	(3%)	C) Not important
218	(3%)	D) Did not consider
817	(12%)	Did not respond

29) How important is the geographical location of the institution to your selection?

1,812	(27%)	A) Very important
2,673	(40%)	B) Somewhat important
1,189	(18%)	C) Not important
285	(4%)	D) Did not consider
801	(12%)	Did not respond

30) How important is the availability of financial aid or scholarships to your selection?

2,544	(38%)	A) Very important
1,795	(27%)	B) Somewhat important
1,146	(17%)	C) Not important
460	(7%)	D) Did not consider
815	(12%)	Did not respond

31) How important is the type of housing available to your selection?

1,529	(23%)	A) Very important
2,277	(34%)	B) Somewhat important
1,596	(24%)	C) Not important
540	(8%)	D) Did not consider
818	(12%)	Did not respond

32) How important is the influence of friends and family on your selection?

1,398	(21%)	A) Very important
2,525	(37%)	B) Somewhat important
1,620	(24%)	C) Not important
378	(6%)	D) Did not consider
839	(13%)	Did not respond

We are interested in your impressions of the University of Nevada System no matter where you plan to enroll in a postsecondary program. The schools in the University of Nevada System are the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; the University of Nevada-Reno, Clark County Community College, Northern Nevada Community College, Truckee Meadows Community College, and Western Nevada Community College. Based on your impressions of these schools, please indicate your level of agreement with the statements in 34-39 below.

33) I think University of Nevada System campuses have high-quality academic programs.

372	(6%)	A) Strongly agree
3,111	(46%)	B) Agree
787	(12%)	C) Disagree
188	(3%)	D) Strongly disagree
1,411	(21%)	E) Don't know
891	(13%)	Did not respond

34) I think the cost of attending a University of Nevada System campus is reasonable.

869	(13%)	A) Strongly agree
3,148	(47%)	B) Agree
672	(10%)	C) Disagree
196	(3%)	D) Strongly disagree
977	(14%)	E) Don't know
898	(13%)	Did not respond

35) I think University of Nevada System campuses provide sufficient financial aid for students who need assistance.

434	(6%)	A) Strongly agree
2,311	(34%)	B) Agree
757	(11%)	C) Disagree
221	(3%)	D) Strongly disagree
2,127	(31%)	E) Don't know
910	(13%)	Did not respond

36) I think students must be above average to be admitted to the University of Nevada-Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

329	(5%)	A) Strongly agree
1,180	(18%)	B) Agree
2,573	(38%)	C) Disagree
1,105	(16%)	D) Strongly disagree
653	(10%)	E) Don't know
912	(13%)	Did not respond

37) I think at least one University of Nevada System campus has a high-quality program in the subject area I plan to pursue.

899	(13%)	A) Strongly agree
2,320	(34%)	B) Agree
781	(12%)	C) Disagree
379	(6%)	D) Strongly Disagree
1,464	(22%)	E) Don't know
917	(14%)	Did not respond

38) If all other factors such as cost, academic reputation, availability of program of study were equal, would you prefer to attend college in Nevada or in another state?

1,867	(28%)	A) In Nevada
2,680	(40%)	B) In another state
1,199	(18%)	C) Don't know
1,014	(15%)	Did not respond

39) Where do you plan to live when you finish all your schooling?

1,122	(17%)	A) Nevada
2,378	(35%)	B) Another state
2,196	(32%)	C) Don't know
1,064	(16%)	Did not respond

You have completed the survey. Thank you for your help.

APPENDIX B

INSTRUCTIONS

The Nevada High School Senior Survey asks you about your impressions of your high school, and also about what you intend to do the first year after your graduation from high school. Many questions ask for your opinion, impression, or your best guess about something. The survey is five pages long and has a total of thirty-nine questions.

You should all answer questions 1-18. Those of you planning to continue with a postsecondary education, that is, any organized education, learning, or training beyond high school, should also answer questions 19-39. Please try to answer all questions. If you cannot answer a question, leave it blank and go on to the next question. You should choose only one answer for each question.

Please place your answers on the scan-tron answer form provided, not on the survey form. Use a #2 soft lead pencil and make dark marks. If you need to change a response, erase the incorrect mark completely. Now look at the scan-tron answer form. Find part 1 and we will code in our high school I.D. number together. Our I.D. number is _____. Write that number in the space indicated. Now darken the corresponding spaces. You do not need to write in your name, subject, date, or hour. Individual responses to this survey will be kept confidential.

Please begin with question #1 on the survey and darken the letter following number 1 on the answer sheet that corresponds with your answer.

Are there any questions? When you are finished, please turn all materials in to me. Please begin.

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